

CONNECTING LIGHT STATIONS BY TELEGRAPH, OREGON.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Light-House Board of an appropriation for telegraph between Tillamook Rock light station and Fort Stevens, Oregon.

JANUARY 22, 1889.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 19, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Light-House Board of the 18th instant, submitting an estimate for an appropriation of \$6,000 for connecting the Tillamook Rock (Oregon) light-station by telegraph cable and a land telegraph line with Fort Stevens (Point Adams), Oregon.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD,
Washington, January 18, 1889.

SIR: The Light-House Board has the honor to inform the Department that the Board, at its session held on January 16, 1889, had under consideration the matter of connecting the Tillamook Rock (Oregon) light station with Fort Stevens (Point Adams), Oregon, by telegraph cable and a land telegraph line; when it was ordered that the proper steps be taken to have an item of \$6,000 for this object included in the sundry civil bill now pending before Congress.

The Tillamook Rock light station has no means of communication with the shore except by the light-house tender. At times there is no communication for six weeks or more. In case of accident at the station it might be days before any vessel came near enough to see a signal of distress.

The tender generally communicates with this station once a month. Much of her time is taken up in attending the station. Often the weather at Astoria seems favorable for making a landing at Tillamook Rock, but when the tender gets there it is too rough to land. The distance from Astoria is about 30 miles, so that in addition to the coal burned, going and coming, the day is lost for other work.

2 CONNECTING LIGHT STATIONS BY TELEGRAPH, OREGON.

It is believed that the saving in time of the tender, and of coal usually burned, would be in two years equal to the cost of the telegraph line.

Besides the service it would be to the Light-House Establishment, the line would be useful also to the general commerce passing the mouth of the Columbia River, as vessels sighted from the advance station on Tillamook Rock could be telegraphed to Astoria, which at times would be a great convenience to the pilot and tug service on the bar.

Request is therefore made that the Department ask that the following item be included in the sundry civil bill making appropriations for the next fiscal year :

For connecting the Tillamook Rock, Oregon, light station by telegraph cable, and a land telegraph line with Fort Stevens (Point Adams), Oregon, the sum of \$6,000.

Respectfully, yours,

S. C. ROWAN,
Vice-Admiral, U. S. Navy, Chairman.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.